

Senate File 519 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 519

BY WAHLS

A BILL FOR

1 An Act establishing a pandemic response review committee.

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **2.70 Pandemic response review**
2 **committee.**

3 1. A pandemic response review committee is established
4 which shall meet as provided in subsection 3.

5 2. *a.* The committee shall consist of the chair and ranking
6 member of the house government oversight committee, the
7 chair and ranking member of the senate government oversight
8 committee, the attorney general or the attorney general's
9 designee, the auditor of state or the auditor of state's
10 designee, a chair of the division of infectious disease of the
11 department of internal medicine of the university of Iowa, and
12 such other persons as the legislative council deems necessary.

13 *b.* Except as provided in subsection 3, paragraph "a",
14 members shall be appointed prior to January 31 of each year in
15 which the committee is required to meet.

16 *c.* The committee shall elect a chairperson and vice
17 chairperson.

18 *d.* Members shall be appointed in accordance with section
19 69.16, relating to political affiliation, and section 69.16A,
20 relating to gender balance.

21 3. *a.* The committee shall convene and members shall be
22 appointed as soon as practicable as directed by the legislative
23 council during the 2021 legislative interim.

24 *b.* The committee shall convene every four years following
25 the 2021 legislative interim for the exclusive purpose of
26 reviewing and recommending updates to the pandemic preparations
27 of the state pursuant to subsection 4, paragraph "c".

28 4. The committee shall do all of the following:

29 *a.* Prepare a complete account of the circumstances
30 surrounding the state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic,
31 including mistakes and failures of the state government
32 in responding to the COVID-19 pandemic, and instances of
33 negligence and profiteering in the private sector. The
34 investigative duties of the committee shall be led by an
35 investigator from the attorney general's office and an

1 gender and political affiliation balance requirements. Members
2 shall also elect a chair and vice chair.

3 The bill requires members to be appointed and the committee
4 to meet as soon as practicable during the 2021 legislative
5 interim. Thereafter, the committee shall meet every four years
6 and members shall be appointed by January 31 of each year in
7 which the committee is required to meet.

8 The bill requires the committee to investigate the
9 circumstances surrounding the state of Iowa's response to the
10 COVID-19 pandemic and investigate instances of profiteering
11 and negligence in the private sector. The investigation shall
12 be led by an investigator from the attorney general's office
13 and an investigator from the auditor of state's office. The
14 bill allows the committee to call witnesses, administer oaths,
15 and issue subpoenas, and cite for contempt, subject to approval
16 by the legislative council. The committee shall submit its
17 findings to the general assembly by March 1, 2022.

18 The bill requires the committee to convene and hear the
19 reports of working groups on public health, education,
20 workforce development, COVID-19 testing, COVID-19 vaccine
21 distribution, federal and state COVID-19 relief appropriations,
22 and state contracts and services.

23 The committee shall submit a report making recommendations
24 on what changes should be made to increase pandemic
25 preparedness in the state to the general assembly by December
26 31, 2022. The report shall be reviewed every four years.

27 The bill requires the legislative services agency to provide
28 administrative assistance to the committee.